

Really Not Their Fault.

Marjori and Clea are prim little sisters, and as there is a baby brother mamma has some trouble putting on the last touches and getting them away to school mornings. In the interest of discipline their teacher was obliged to lecture them on tardiness and next morning they were late as usual. She waited for them at the door, trying to look stern, but Clea upset all her dignity and cut her lecture short by observing: "Well, we can't help it if you ring the bell too soon."

Oil Well Flow Increased.

An electrical method of carrying warmth to the bottom of oil wells has been found in many cases greatly to increase the flow of oil, according to Popular Mechanics magazine. The heating process decreases the viscosity of the oil, usually occasioned by the admission of air to the well and the cooling of the rock bed. Minute crevices and capillary channels which afford easy passage to warm thin oil become quite impassable if the oil gums.

Livingstone Memorial.

One of the most curious memorials of Livingstone is the "Name Tree," near Victoria falls, on the Zambesi. On the trunk Livingstone cut his initials and the date 1855 on the day of his first visit to the falls. In his book, giving an account of this, Livingstone says: "This was the only instance in which I indulged in this piece of vanity."

Auto Service in Porto Rico.

Porto Rico is about 100 miles long by 40 miles wide, and autobus lines furnish satisfactory service in covering the parts of the country where railways are not available. For the benefit of tourists and others a daily automobile service connects San Juan, on the north, with Ponce, on the south of the island, a run of five hours.

Painful Insinuation.

Little six-year-old, to young aunt showing him a family portrait: "What a funny way that grandpa is dressed, auntie!" Auntie: "That is the way gentlemen dressed more than a hundred years ago." Six-year-old: "And when gentlemen dressed that way what did you wear?"

Forbearance of the Seal.

It is a curious fact that the fur seal was once a land animal. The baby seals are actually afraid of water; they would drown if thrown into it, and have to learn to swim by repeated efforts. When once they have been taught to swim, however, they soon forget to walk.

First Private English Phone.

The first telephone ever placed in a private English residence is still to be seen at Marlborough house. It was made in 1878 on board the warship Thunderer and was subsequently set up between the schoolroom and the boudoir of the princess of Wales.

Laying a Carpet.

In laying a carpet in a room where there is a fireplace, the section covering the fireplace or hearth should be cut down its center by the shears, and then the carpet should be cut toward the sides, so as to form two flaps, which should be turned under.

Haden's Foeled Helen.

Mother could not take Helen with her when she went downtown and was trying to slip away without her knowing it, so father called Helen to come to him, when she said, "I has to watch murther, 'cause she's tryin' to run'd away."

Life Much as We Make It.

No person is ever condemned to a small life. Many are assigned to small circumstances, but our lives may be as large as we want them to be. For the only limits of life are aspiration, sympathy and interest.—Selected.

Prison His Safety.

When the West Indian city of St. Pierre was destroyed by the eruption of Mont Pelee some years ago all its inhabitants except one lost their lives. The sole survivor was a prisoner in an underground dungeon.

Reason for Optimism.

"Some men are optimists," said Uncle Eben, "foh de reason dat it's most times easier to sell a man sumpin' by tellin' him a funny story dan it is by tellin' him de truth."

Perplexing.

One of the mysteries of this life is why they call it a tanning when every kid knows that the area affected by the performance doesn't get tan at all.

Beware First False Step.

Honor is like an island, rugged and without a landing place; we can never more re-enter when we are once outside of it.—Silver Threads.

Spasmodic Sermon.

Next to the woman who will slap a baby, the most disgusting creature is the one who will talk baby talk to a dog.—Indianapolis Star.

Daily Thought.

Worth makes the man, and want is the fellow.—Pope.

GREAT LAW MUST BE OBEYED

Mankind Helpless Before the Irresistible March of Progress Known as Evolution.

The old sailing packet crawled along, tacking and trimming, that its yards unfurled canvas might catch the freshening winds. The skipper, his leathern face seamed with the heavy lines put there by years of buffeting struggle with wind and wave, watched the great engine-driven liner race past him.

A dark bitterness welled up in the old sailing skipper's heart. For that engine-driven liner represented a relentless progress that would not be stayed or denied. It had driven most of his kind from the face of the waters; it had made cargoes for the few of his kind remaining difficult to obtain and obtainable only at rates that meant at best only a pittance.

On the bridge of the steam-driven liner the captain, as he gazed at the crawling old sailing packet, caught the hum of a mighty motor overhead. His glance turned from the miserable old packet to the swiftly approaching outlines of a giant aircraft. It came from behind and it passed the racing liner even as the liner had passed the packet. And in the heart of the liner's captain welled a dark bitterness. For he understood. The workings of the Great Law were written clearly in the air and sea before him. Even as the day of the skipper of the sailing packet had ended so his own day was nearing its end. A progress that would not be stayed or denied was overtaking him and his kind.

There is a sadness like unto no other for they who watch and give way before the changing eras, for they represent life's helpless discard.

PUZZLE FOR LEARNED MEN

Figures of White Horses, Cut in English Cliffs, Have Never Been Satisfactorily Explained.

Every now and then, naturally enough, a little wave of popular interest eddies around the mysterious white horses cut in the hillsides in various parts of southern England. Sometimes, owing to the encroaching habits of the brush, the clink which constitutes the lines of the animals fades from view and almost from memory. This process had well-nigh happened to the Westbury White Horse at Bratton, Wiltshire, when the clearing of the bushes laid it bare, and revived inquiries as to its origin, and solicitude for its preservation, as well as for the upkeep of its various counterparts elsewhere.

Well-known authorities have it that the horse was cut out to commemorate the victory of King Alfred over the Danes at Ebandune, the site of which is not far distant. Uffington, however, has a better specimen as white horses go, though abnormally lean and scraggy in proportions. In size it is nearly 350 feet in length and the same in breadth. It is mentioned in the records of 1571 and was long the scene of annual festivities known as the "scouring" festival. The existence of these and the other white horses with which may be included the Cerne Abbas Giant and the Long Man at Wilmington, have been the object of much learned and largely unfruitful discussion.

Proof That Seeds Breathe.

It is easy to demonstrate that germinating seeds take in oxygen and give out carbon dioxide, according to the following experiment described in the Scientific American:

A score or so of peas are placed in a close-fitting jar with a small amount of moisture. After a while the peas start to germinate, but soon they cease all development, because the oxygen in the jar is exhausted. A single pea in a jar of the same size, however, will develop and grow up into a little plant. There is evidently oxygen enough for the needs of the single specimen.

To prove conclusively that there is no oxygen left in the jar in which the number of seeds germinated it is only needful to plunge in a burning match. This instantly goes out. The presence of carbon dioxide in this jar is clearly shown by pouring into it lime water, and then shaking. The lime water becomes milky in appearance. This would not happen in a jar in which there had been no germinating seeds.

Sought to End Civil War.

On the 18th of July, in 1864, Horace Greeley, one of the most famous of the Abolitionists, received a letter from George Saunders of Kentucky, suggesting that Clay of Alabama and Holcombe of Virginia, would, with himself, meet Greeley and negotiate peace terms for the ending of the Civil war. Greeley was commissioned by Lincoln to take the matter up, but the negotiations came to nothing, as the Confederate delegates did not have the full backing of their government, and the war lasted nine months longer. Greeley was a rabid anti-slavery leader, but he was not in accord with Lincoln. He was always of the opinion that the slaves could be liberated by reimbursing the southern states for their value.

The Main Thing.

"My poor man," said the sympathetic prison visitor, "Do let me send you some cake."

"Thank you, mum. Dat would suit me fine."

"What kind would you prefer?"

"Any kind, mum," said the prisoner, lowering his voice to a whisper, "just so it's got a file in it."—Birmingham Age-Herald.

Outspoken Athenian.

More than twenty-three hundred years ago a young Athenian, speaking of his wife, said to Socrates: "When I saw that she had powder on her face to make it whiter and rouge to make it redder, and that she wore high-heeled shoes to appear taller, I told her it was as dishonorable for her to try to deceive me about her beauty as for me to try to deceive her about my property. I added that, although her arts might impose upon others, they could not impose upon me, who saw her at all times."—Youth's Companion.

Jolly Little Chipmunk.

The place the chipmunk fills is small and inconspicuous but his sylvan "chipmunk" plays a minor strain in the wordless diapason which the mighty blue soul of nature is forever singing in her forests; solemn and consoling to heal earth's scars; jubilant and glad for the free of heart. Intoning ever some clear sweet note of mystic melody for those who listen, to awaken a dreaming bliss or to thrill an untired fiber into quivering life.

Peruvian Flower Festival.

Peru celebrates a custom which dates from soon after the Spanish conquest. All soldiers' graves alike are decorated, including those of pious and Indians, individuals little regarded in Peru, at all events during life. In the evening the populace gives itself over to feasting and merrymaking. This particular flower festival is held annually on November 1.

Satisfaction in Doing Right.

Imagination is the father and mother of trouble when we let it run loose in a time of stress. But in the end the will and the heart are what determine our fate. After all, when we do right we have some satisfaction even if we suffer. But if we do nothing but drift along we have not even the satisfaction of knowing we deserve to come out right.

Battles on Sundays.

The date of the battle of Salamanca was Sunday, July 2, 1812; Vimiero, Fuentes d'Oñor, Orthez, Toulouse and Vittoria were also contested on what were known as "Wellington's Red Sundays." Waterloo was won on a Sunday and the greatest attack on Cronje's trenches at Paardeberg was made on a Sunday—Feb. 18, 1900.

Waiting in Agony.

At a recent wedding the bride was delayed a little in making her appearance. When at last she did appear she breathlessly ran up to the embarrassed bridegroom, who had been waiting for her in agony and putting her arms around his neck exclaimed: "Oh, John, dear, I am so sorry I am late."

Value of Uncooked Food.

Man cannot digest and assimilate the mineral elements in rock; hence it is necessary for him to get the elements for structural work from fruits and vegetables, in their fresh, uncooked state; for cooking destroys the chemistry—the chemical synthesis with albumin is lost.—J. H. Tilden, M. D.

Paste for Brown Leather.

An excellent paste for brown leather is made of two ounces of soft soap, four ounces of beeswax, two ounces of turpentine and half an ounce of neat's foot oil. Melt soap, wax and oil together, then remove from fire and add the turpentine. Stir well. When cold apply with a brush.

Floor Bleach.

If an unfilled or undressed hardwood floor becomes gray apply a solution of two ounces of oxalic acid dissolved in just enough water to wet it well all over. Let stand fifteen or twenty minutes; then rinse in cold water and proceed to wash without suds as usual.

Confidential Communication.

"I promised Matilda not to mention this to anyone, because she got it in strictest confidence from some one who was pledged to absolute secrecy, so therefore I tell you you must give me your word of honor you won't even breathe a hint of it."

First Translation of Bible.

The first translation of any part of the Bible was that by Bede of the Fourth Gospel, in 735. The first complete translation was that of Wycliffe about 1388. Luther was not born until 1483.

Something to Think About.

"I reckon," said Uncle Eben, "dat a candidate has to be right kwerful not to let de handshakin' sociability git to be so much of a habit dat it interferes wif his office work when he gits de job."

New Labor Saver.

An inventor has patented an electrically driven machine which makes the rough clay boxes in which pottery is subjected to heat in kilns, work heretofore done by hand.

One Value of Silence.

Silence doesn't mean wisdom, but the fellow who keeps his mouth closed can at least hold in what he doesn't know.

LIKE THE BOOK OF GENESIS

Description of Flood of Time of Noah Found Among Ancient Records of Chaldean.

Perhaps the tracing of the story of the book of Genesis is the true fascination that Mesopotamia has for those who have time to read. The great boats of the Euphrates have the identical lines of the ark that can be bought in London. Where a pent roof has been added for our purposes the two are one in shape. A Euphrates "bellum" arranged as a sick barge is the ark of childhood. Is that toy ark an authentic tradition in its shape? It is almost certain to be. The Euphrates boats are pitched inside and out with pitch, as was that ark. In these same bellums, some as large as 70 tons, we may find British batteries sailing the Euphrates and a modified menagerie could easily walk on board. One more suggestion of the toy shop tradition strikes the casual observer. The tribespeople from the hills who work on the Tigris and Euphrates wear high black felt hats, a topper without a brim. Are Mr. and Mrs. Noah really correctly dressed?

Then on top of the discovery of the ark comes the more serious reading of a parallel version of the Bible story of the flood found in the cuneiform in Lagard's tablets from the Royal Library of Ashurbanipal at Nineveh, copied or collected possibly from Sargon's Library at Accade or Erech, older than Ashurbanipal by perhaps 1,500 years. Were the stories of Genesis the household stories of Chaldean 4,000 years ago? It would seem so, when from Babylon is unearthed a seal with the representation of the temptation, Adam and Eve, the serpent and the apple tree.

HAVE TO SEARCH FOR POET

Great Mind by No Means Easy to Find, and Some Can Never Discover Him.

There was once a small but mighty nation, now numerous as the sands of the seashore, and no longer so interesting. To this nation was born a poet, and they made him the poet of all time. They took him and taught him all they knew—and they had great things to teach; and when, at their command, he made great dramas, they stood at his elbow; and everything they gave him he gave back to them tenfold.

England was then Shakespeare's land.

The poet is always amongst us; the difficulty is how to find him; he is like the proverbial needle in a bundle of hay.

But one thing is certain—logicians without love will not find him; they leave a desolation, and call it peace; they call it culture. Critics of this sort will allow nothing to exist except themselves. No; I am wrong. There is one thing they admire more than themselves—the fault accomplish a mundane success.—John Luther Yeats.

Health in Trapshooting.

The great and popular detective of fiction, Sherlock Holmes, once admitted that a man's knees were the seat of great enlightenment and from this source he drew many of his deductions. He may, therefore, scrutinize with interest a trapshooter's knees while he is in action. Do they wobble? He is a seasoned shooter in good physical condition. Do they wobble? He is anxious, perhaps a little new at the game but so happy and willing to get that next target he cares little whether the sun shines or the equinoctial is on.

It is a fascinating sport without placing any strain on the nervous system, in fact, trapshooting strengthens the nerves. It combines sport with fresh air and sunshine and saves many doctors' bills. Physicians and nurses recommend the sport as a health tonic, and if the patients follow the advice given there will not be much need for the physician and the nurse.—Forest and Stream.

Homer.

Homer is an epic poet and not a historian, so it is quite natural that he should have exaggerated everything with poetic license. Moreover, the events which he describes are so marvelous that many scholars have long doubted the very existence of Troy and have considered the city to be a mere invention of the poet's fancy. I venture to hope that the civilized world will not only not be disappointed that the city of Priam has shown itself to be scarcely a twentieth part as large as was to be expected from the statements of the Iliad, but that on the contrary, it will accept with delight and enthusiasm the certainty that Ilium did really exist, that a large portion of it has now been brought to light and that Homer, even although he exaggerates, nevertheless sings of events that actually happened.—Robertson.

You May Bet on It.

When you see a young man sitting in the parlor with the ugliest four-year-old boy that ever frightened himself in a mirror clambering over his knees, jerking his necktie out of place, ruffling his shirt-front; pulling his hair, kicking his shins, feeling in all his pockets for coppers, while the unresisting victim smiles all the time like the cover of a comic paper, you may safely say that the howling boy has a sister who is in a room not 20 feet away, and that the young man doesn't go there just for the fun of playing with her brother.

Few persons, however, have opportunity visit the forbidden shores of rock-bound Persia or China. The rugged beauty of its towering cliffs, with their dark and jagged outlines against the southern sky, is lost upon the natives, who see them only as a source of revenue. By swinging from ropes or climbing ladders they scour these rocks for the tiny nests from which are concocted the famous bird nest soup. These nests they sell to oriental traders by thousands, who come regularly to barter for this delicacy of Chinese fare.

Trees of Sorrow.

The Persian "Trees of Sorrow" are so called because they bloom only at night. When the first star appears in the sky the first flower opens and as the evening advances more and more buds burst into bloom until the lovely tree appears to be one vast flower. It has a delicate fragrance not unlike the scent of the evening primrose. As the dawn approaches the flowers begin to fade until by sunrise not a bloom is to be seen.

Unique London Club.

Of the many clubs in London, perhaps the newest and most exclusive is the Thirteen Club, which meets at the thirteenth hour of the thirteenth day of every month. It owes its inception to a lunch held to celebrate the armistice during the world war, at which it was found that 13 were sitting down. The membership is restricted to 13, and at a recent lunch every member made it a point to upset the salt.

Where the Grocer Was.

Doris's mother was in the habit of ordering her bread at Smith's grocery. One day while entertaining callers they heard Doris in the next room talking through her toy telephone, asking Central for Smith's grocery, when she called: "Mother, Mr. Smith isn't at home." "Where do you suppose he is?" replied the mother. Doris answered: "Why, he's up in heaven getting our daily bread."

Condition to Avoid.

The dangerous moment in life comes when men begin to over-value the past at the expense of the present. It is the moment of religious controversies, for ancestor worship, for narrowing in, for exalting one set of people and excluding another. When we reach it, it means that we are growing old. But we need never reach it.—Exchange.

Almost Universal Symbol.

The swastika symbol has been found depicted on tombs at Hissarlik, near ancient Troy; on Buddhist inscriptions in India, in Etruscan necropolises, on coins of Gaza and Corinth; on rock carvings in Sweden, and on Celtic stones in Britain. In America in pre-Columbian times, it was in common use by the aborigines.

To Preserve Letters.

The following method of preserving the legibility of pencil writing is valuable: Steam the letter until quite limp, then brush over with a solution composed of equal parts of milk and water. Hang it up until nearly dry. Then press it between two sheets of blotting paper with a hot iron.

Art of Chinese Gardeners.

Chinese gardeners sometimes plant statues of tiny men firmly in posts, just like real plants, and then train live evergreens to grow up over these statues. The vines thus form a kind of robe for the statuette men, their white faces and hands protruding from the green leaves.

Madness of the Moon.

So far as we can gather, there is no foundation for the old belief that the moon affects the mind and brings about madness in some people. The idea may have originated from the word "lunatic," which is derived from "luna" the moon.

Kind of a Mixture.

At the dinner table Robert was telling us that "a new kid came to school today." As I always take an interest in his school affairs I asked, "A boy or girl?" "Well, I don't know, 'cause it wears pants, but it's got curls."—Chicago Tribune.

Tuberculosis Among Chickens.

Two French scientists contend that 10 per cent of the chickens in that country have tuberculosis and that the disease runs as high as 28 per cent among poultry in some other countries.

Carlyle's Wise Advice.

Remember now and always that life is no idle dream, but a solemn reality based upon eternity and encompassed by eternity. Find out your task; stand by it; the night cometh when no man can work.—Carlyle.

Must Have Something to Feed On.

Affection can withstand very severe storms of strife, but not a long polar frost of downright indifference. Love will subsist on wonderfully little hope, but not altogether without it.

Intrusion of Willie.

"Excuse me, aunt! I hate to bother you—but I really think you are sitting on a little snake that I've mislaid."—Life.

SURELY HAD GREAT FAITH

Or Else It Was First Time This Man Had Ever Grown After Forgetting Umbrella.

Oh, ye of little faith, listen for I would a tale unfold. A man once going down the street the other day, his loaded like with the world on his shoulders, his second hand on a clock somewhere and getting there quick. A friend met him and said: "Why this haste? There must have been a catastrophe as I didn't hear any whistle. Where's your coat?"

The man in a position said: "Yes, I am in a little hurry. I was down street shopping a couple of days ago and went into a department store, and when I got home I found I had lost my umbrella. I know just where I left it, on the south side of the street, standing up against the corner. I thought I would run down and get it before another shower came."

Just think of it. Why, if I had but man's faith I could not only take a mole hill into a mountain and sell the gravel to the government to make concrete ships, but I could move the mountain with a broom handle.

After parting with that old rain-shedder he had blind faith that he would find his eyes on it again. Forty-eight hours of golden moments had fled by, and he had the idea that all he had to do was to stand in front of the store and whistle, and that umbrella would come to meet him, bringing a flock of little umbrellas with it. I don't wonder the gold-buck factories are running overtime. Why that innocent mortal must have at this writing enough nice, shiny brics on hand to top out a chimney.—Temple Journal.

The Lucky Horseshoe.

It was about the middle of the nineteenth century that the superstitions use of horseshoes as emblems of good luck originated in England. They were at first deemed a protection against witches and evil spirits, and were nailed on doors of houses with the curve uppermost. It was the belief that no witch or evil spirit could enter a house thus guarded. The custom of nailing horseshoes to ships and other sailing craft is still in vogue in all English-speaking countries. To find a horseshoe with an odd number of nails attached to it is considered the forerunner of good luck, and the more nails the greater the good fortune that is likely to attend the finder. A person about to be married who finds a horseshoe believes that a happy matrimonial career awaits him.

Joy in Conquest.

Life's master-key does for its possessor what is impossible to those who do not have it. No future is too forbidding for men of the right mental fiber to fear. Weaklings falter and turn back. Men of talent turned to right channels delight in meeting what has brought failure to the many. It offers to them a chance to try the really hard things. They alone test the skill and prove the mettle. Such men bring wealth out of defeat, and rejoice in the struggle. It's no wonder they step forward and try what has brought failure to others. It's the mental sense of conquest that crowns effort with success and makes man king in the world. It's your right.—Exchange.

Rapid Heat Changes in Leaves. Some recent investigations of the temperature of leaves made in the deserts and mountains of Arizona and in the Santa Lucia mountains of California have resulted in the discovery that leaves show a very rapid change of temperature at times. These fluctuations are almost constantly going on. Changes of from one to three degrees Centigrade were observed from 20 to 60 seconds, and if a moderately strong wind is blowing the change may amount to five degrees in 30 seconds.